

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A seatbelt lock having a preventive tensioning device that is operable to move the seatbelt lock between an operating position and a safety position that is lower than the operating position, said preventative tensioning device comprising:

an energy accumulator; and

a drive unit; wherein,

the energy accumulator is maintained preloaded when said seat belt lock is in the operating position;

the drive unit is operable to transfer the seatbelt lock from the safety position back into the operating position; and

the drive unit is further operable to move the seatbelt lock from its operating position into a comfort position that is raised relative to the operating position.

Claim 2. (Previously Amended) The seatbelt lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the energy accumulator is a compression spring which is connected to the seatbelt lock via a draw-in cable.

Claim 3. (Previously Amended) The seatbelt lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein a rack is fastened to the seatbelt lock and interacts with a corresponding driven gear of the drive unit.

Claim 4. (Previously Amended) The seatbelt lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive unit is an electric motor which drives an electric motor-operated seat adjuster.

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A deflection unit for a seatbelt lock having a preventive tensioning device, wherein said deflection unit comprising:

a shaft; ~~is provided with~~

a cam track on said shaft, which cam track engages is in engagement with and activates a catch; and

a ratchet gear which is carried on the shaft and has ~~is provided with~~ a grooved track which is in engagement with the catch; wherein,

the ratchet gear being able to rotate is rotatably mounted on the shaft such that it is rotatable between two operating positions relative to the shaft.

Claim 7. (Previously Amended) The deflection unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein the catch is not in engagement with the grooved track during a preventive tensioning operation.

Claim 8. (Previously Amended) The deflection unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein the catch is not in engagement with the cam track during a reversing operation.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The deflection unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein, when there are high tensile forces on the seatbelt lock, the ratchet gear ~~can be rotated~~ rotatable as far as stops on the shaft.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The synchronizing unit as claimed in claim [[15,]] 16, wherein [[the]] end faces of the locking blocks are designed as tooth flanks.

Claims 12.-13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously Presented)

A seatbelt locking apparatus

comprising:

a seatbelt lock that is moveable between an operating position and a safety position, which safety position is lowered relative to said operating position; and

a preventive tensioning device which is operable to move said seatbelt lock between said operating position and said safety position, and which comprises an energy accumulator and a drive unit that are coupled to said seatbelt lock; wherein,

said energy accumulator is maintained in a preloaded state when said seatbelt lock is in said operating position, and is releasable to move said seatbelt lock from said operating position to said safety position;

said drive unit is operable to move said seatbelt lock from said safety position back into said operating position; and

said drive unit is further operable to move said seatbelt lock from said operating position into a comfort position, which is raised relative to said operating position.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A deflection unit for a seatbelt lock having a preventive tensioning device, said deflection unit comprising:

a shaft;

a ratchet gear which is disposed on said shaft, has a grooved track, and is rotatable about rotatably mounted on said shaft, such that it is rotatable between two positions relative to said shaft;

a catch that is engageable with said grooved track on said ratchet gear; and

a cam track on said shaft, which cam track engages with and activates said catch to control engagement of said catch with said grooved track.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A synchronizing unit for a seatbelt lock having a preventive tensioning device for controlling tensioning, reversing and locking of said seatbelt lock, said synchronizing unit comprising:

first and second locking blocks which are mounted within a spring housing of a spring for driving said preventive tensioning device, such that said locking blocks are rotatable relative to each other; wherein,

an axial end of said first locking block abuts and engages with an axial end of said second locking block under tension of said spring; and

locking and releasing of said preventive tensioning device are controlled by a relative rotational position of said first and second locking blocks.

Claim 17. (New) The seatbelt lock according to claim 1, wherein:

in said operating position, said energy accumulator is releasable to move said seatbelt lock from the operating position to said safety position;

operation of said drive unit to transfer the seatbelt lock from the safety position back into the operating position also restores said energy accumulator to a preloaded state.